

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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DRC-01 /126 W

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P 100200Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 405

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ENRG, JA

SUBJ: NUCLEAR-POWER OPPONENT WINS MAYORALITY ELECTION

SUMMARY: IN AN ELECTION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE, ANTI-NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CANDIDATE WON MAYORALITY ELECTION IN SENDAI, KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE. INCUMBENT, WHO FAVORED CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT, HURT BADLY BY MUTTSU TROUBLES. LOCAL PUNDITS SEE ELECTION AS SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF TROUBLE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH PLANTS LIKELY TO FACE IN FUTURE AND REVITALIZATION OF OPPOSITION MOVEMENT TO THOSE PLANTS ALREADY CONSTRUCTED. IF THIS INTERPRETATION CORRECT, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS, IT PROVIDES CLEAR ILLUSTRATION OF DEPTH OF OPPOSITION JAPAN'S MOVE TOWARD NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT LIKELY TO

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FACE. END SUMMARY.

IN SEPTEMBER 9 MAYORALITY ELECTION IN SENDAI (POPULATION 61,776) INDEPENDENT CHALLENGER JUJI FUKUJU, WHO HAD BACKING OF LEFTIST PARTIES, DEFEATED CONSERVATIVE INCUMBENT, MASAMOTO YOKOYAMA. FINALLY TALLY WAS 19,998 TO 16,173, WITH A VOTING RATE OF 85.3 PER CENT. ELECTION REVOLVED ALMOST ENTIRELY AROUND ATTITUDE OF CANDIDATES TOWARD PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

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NEAR CITY. INCUMBENT FAVORED CONSTRUCTION, CHALLENGER OPPOSED IT,

AT LEAST UNTIL CITIZENS CONVINCED OF SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. YOKOYAMA WAS AIMING FOR FIFTH TERM AS MAYOR, AND RECENT OPPOSITION RECENT MOOD OF OPPOSITION TO OVER-LONG INCUMBENCIES AMONG VOTERS MAY HAVE BEEN FACTOR IN YOKOYAMA'S DEFEAT. POLITICALLY, HOWEVER, BOTH YOKOYAMA

AND FUKUJU ARE CONSERVATIVES. FUKUJU HAD SIGNED POLICY AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, WITH JSP, KOMEITO, AND CITY LABOR UNIONS REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT.

RECENT PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR-POWERED MUTTSU WEIGHED VERY HEAVILY IN DEFEAT OF INCUMBENT. KITAKYUSHU EDITOR OF ASAHI TOLD PRIN OF UPTHEMBER 9 THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN NO PROBLEMS WITH MUTTSU, INCUMBENT WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY WON. TIMING OF MUTTSU RADIATION LEAKS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WORSE FOR YOKOYAMA.

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KYUSHU ELECTRIC POWER, INC., WHICH IS BUILDING TWO PLANTS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATION IN 1980 AND 1981, RESPECTIVELY OBVIOUSLY WORRIED BY ELECTION OF MAYOR WHO WILL DOUBTLESS SUPPORT OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. COMPANY SPOKESMEN STATE PUBLICLY THAT THEY FEEL SCHEDULE WILL NOT BE SLOWED DOWN BY FUKUJU'S VICTORY, BUT LOCAL PAPERS REPORT THEY SEE FUKUJU'S ELECTION AS SERIOUS PROBLEM AND FEAR INTENSIFIED OPPOSITION TO PLANT CONSTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT GENKAI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NEAR KARATSU WILL FEEL INTENSIFIED OPPOSITON. LOCAL LEADER OF OPPOSITION MOVEMENT SAID "IN SAGA PREFECTURE, WE SEE A VERY BRIGHT PROSPECT FOR INCREASED OPPOSITION."

COMMENT: ELECTION SEEMS TO INDICATE OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN JAPAN WILL BE VERY STRONG. IN 1964, VARIOUS SOCIETIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF PLANT CONSTRUCTION WERE VERY ACTIVE AND CITY AND KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLIES PASSED RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR CONSTRUCTION. HOWEVER, FEARS OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS SEEMS TO HAVE CLEARLY OUTPACED DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC AID PLANT CONSTRUCTION WOULD BRING. END COMMENT.

RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MAYOR, ELECTION RESULTS, CONSTRUCTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NUCLEAR-POWER OPPONENT WINS MAYORALITY ELECTION SUMMARY: IN AN ELECTION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ENRG, JA, (FUKUJU, JUJI)  
**To:** TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005